

The Popcorn Institute

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August 3, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Federal Register: June 6, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 109)]
[Page 35945]
[Docket No. 00D-1277]

Dear Sirs:

The Popcorn Institute appreciates the care with which the Food and Drug Administration has reviewed the levels of fumonisin in food intended for both humans and animals and the degree of risk to health, if any. Careful surveillance of our food and feed grain crops is essential to retain consumer confidence in our food supply and the integrity of our production and marketing systems.

The FDA "Background Paper in Support of Fumonisin Levels in Corn and Corn Products Intended for Human Consumption" notes the information provided previously by the Popcorn Institute. We are glad that this information proved useful.

We agree with the decision of the Food and Drug Administration that the action level for fumonisin in corn intended for popcorn should apply to the cleaned popcorn and support the proposed level of 3 parts per million (ppm). We also concur with the statement that recent studies suggest that popping corn results in a significant reduction of any levels of fumonisin that may be present in the unpopped corn. We understand that recent work at FDA laboratories has confirmed this information.

We are continuing to advise our members to be alert to any mold in their raw popcorn and to screen and take other reasonable precautions during the cleaning process. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Anne Preston g.b.
Leigh Anne Preston
President

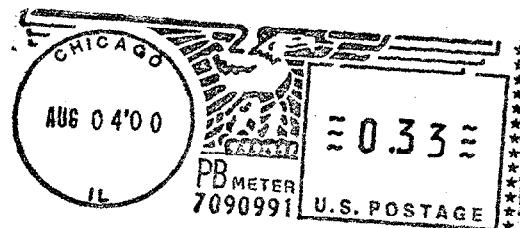
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cc: Terry Troxell, Director of the Office of Plant and Dairy Foods and Beverages, CFSAN
Nega Beru, Director of Plant and Product Safety, CFSAN
Mike Kashtock, Division of Plant and Product Safety, CFSAN
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